

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on April 18, 2006. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1-23 were pending. The applicant has canceled claims 1-23, and added new claims 24-40. As such, claims 24-40 are pending. Applicant respectfully submits that this does not add new matter.

Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,200. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7, and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,182,188. The Examiner provisionally rejected claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-3 of co-pending Application No. 10/654,559.

Applicant respectfully submits that in light of the cancellation of claims 1-21, the Examiner's rejections are moot. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the newly added claims 24-40 have a different scope than the claims in Patent Nos. 6,622,200 and 6,182,188, and co-pending Application No. 10/654,559, and are therefore patentable.

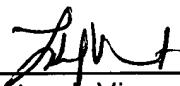
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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